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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (12 July 68)

FOR OT RD 682220

30 July 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Da Nang Sub  
Area Command, Period Ending 30 April 1968

STATEMENT OF

SEE DISTRIBUTION

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*DR, Office of Asst Chief of Staff  
attn: FOR-OT-RD  
Wash. D.C. 20310*

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

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1968

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters, Da Nang Sub Area Command  
APO 96337

15 May 1968

AVCA-DNG-SA-CO

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Da Nang Sub Area Command for Quarterly  
Period Ending 30 April 1968 (RCS-CSFOR-65)(R-1)

THRU: Commanding General  
US Army Support Command, Da Nang  
ATTN: AVCA-DNG-GO  
APO 96337

Commanding General  
1st Logistical Command  
ATTN: AVCA-GO-C  
APO 96384

Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVCA-GO-DST  
APO 96337

Commander-In-Chief  
United States Army, Pacific  
ATTN: GPOP-OT  
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development  
Department of the Army  
Washington, D.C. 20310

FOROT RD  
682220

AVCA-DNG-CA-CO

15 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Da Nang Sub Area Command for Quarterly  
Period Ending 30 April 1968 (RCS-CSFOR-65)(R-1)

## SECTION I

### SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

#### NARRATIVE SUMMARY

#### 1. Command.

a. With the formation of the US Army Support Command, Da Nang (Prov) on 25 February 1968, the 80th General Support Group Da Nang Sub Area Command (DSAC) was transferred from the USAUSPCOM, QN to USAUSPCOM, DNG. In addition, the 26th General Support Group was transferred from Cam Ranh Bay to Quang Tri in early March. The 26th Group assumed responsibility for the northern one-third of I Corps, while DSAC retained the support mission for the southern two-thirds of the Corps, including the area south of the Hai Van Pass to the II Corps border, effective on 31 March 1968.

b. Da Nang Sub Area Command's task forces in the Northern I Corps area were transferred to the control of the 26th Group. These were Task Forces Lane, Langley, Slawson and Noroz, and Team Kay. Task Force Brown and Team Hendrickson remained under the control of Da Nang Sub Area Command.

c. During the reporting period, Da Nang Sub Area Command engaged in a total of 90 days support operations for US Army units in its area of responsibility.

d. Other organizational changes within Da Nang Sub Area Command were effected during the reporting period:

(1) Task Force Brown was placed under the control of the 80th GS GP (GP) located at Cam Ranh.

(2) The 156th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company, located at Qui Nhon, was transferred to Da Nang Sub Area Command effective 1 Mar 68 as per GO #10, US Army Support Command, Da Nang (Prov) dated 19 Mar 68.

(3) The 565th Transportation Company (Terminal Service) and the 329th Transportation Company (Heavy Boat) were assigned to Da Nang Sub Area Command effective 25 February 1968 as per GO #48, Da Nang Support Command. dated 24 Apr 68.

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(4) Da Nang Sub Area Command (Prov) was deactivated effective 25 February 1968 as per GO #268 US Army Support Command, Qui Nhon, dated 29 April 1968 and reactivated by Da Nang Support Command (VOCG) effective 26 February 1968.

(5) The 516th Personnel Service Company closed at Da Nang and was assigned to 80th General Support Group effective 1 March 1968 by GO #11, Da Nang Support Command, dated 19 March 1968.

e. The division of I Corps has relieved much of the supply and maintenance overload for the Da Nang Sub Area Command. Service functions for both group areas have been retained by the Da Nang Sub Area Command and units such as the 516th Personnel Service Company, the 111th Engineer Company, the 192d Finance Section and the US Army Mortuary Da Nang have experienced no change in mission.

f. The mission of the Da Nang Sub Area Command:

(1) Command all 1st Logistical Command units in I Corps south of the Hai Van Pass.

(2) Provide logistical support to US Army units located in Southern I Corps to include:

(a) Direct support maintenance to equipment issued to US Army units.

(b) Resupply of selected Class II, III and IV and all Class V to US Army units.

(c) Operation of supply point storage activity and public works support in non-secure areas.

(d) Provide coordinated Class I support to Army units in ICTZ.

(e) Provide General Support Maintenance of equipment for all Army units in the ICTZ.

(f) Operate a collection, classification and salvage activity in support of all Army units in the ICTZ.

(g) Operate property disposal facilities in support of all services in the ICTZ.

(h) Operate the US Army Mortuary, Da Nang.

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g. The 34th S&S Bn was transferred from Qui Nhon Support Command to Da Nang and assigned to 80th General Support Group effective 1 March 1968 by GO #8, Da Nang Support Command, dated 19 March 1968. The Battalion assumed the mission of establishing and operating the US Army Depot Da Nang. Units assigned to the Battalion are 56th Heavy Material Supply Company, 74th Repair Parts Company, 855th General Supply Company, and the 560th General Supply Company.

## 2. Personnel, Administration, Morale and Discipline.

a. Personnel: During the reporting period, the following changes were made in the command structure:

(1) On 12 February 1968, LTC Joe R. McCray was appointed as Deputy Commander for Da Nang Sub Area Command, replacing LTC Benjamin H. Purcell who was listed as missing in action on 8 February 1968.

(2) LTC Robert E. Welch replaced LTC Robert J. Gilroy as OIC of the 80th General Support Group (FWD) on 23 April 1968.

(3) LTC Louis H. Pollard Jr. replaced LTC Donald E. Mendenhall as Security, Plans and Operations Officer on 28 February 1968.

### b. Administration:

(1) The Adjutant, personnel and finance staff offices operated at an accelerated pace during the reporting period due to the large influx of personnel in the I Corps area. Assigned strength in Da Nang Sub Area Command increased from 2300 to 3700 personnel. Finance and personnel records for US Army non-divisional units in I Corps are maintained at DSAC. A complete team from the 192d Finance Section serves remote units by making monthly trips for 3 to 4 day periods to handle record and disbursing functions.

(2) Da Nang Sub Area Command received the Minute-Man Flag and the Secretary of the Army US Savings Bond Award for 98.2% participation in the Savings Bond program.

(3) The Da Nang Sub Area Command received the Civic Action Award for the month of January 1968 from the Qui Nhon Support Command. This was the first award of its kind made to a Sub Area Command and was presented for the civic action accomplishments of DSAC, which included a Christmas party for 1,000 refugee children, construction of a school for an adopted village and numerous other civic activities.

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(4) Morale and discipline were maintained at a satisfactory level during the reporting period.

3. Operations: Da Nang Sub Area Command, through assigned task forces and teams, exercised command and control of US Army logistical forces in Southern I Corps. This included an area from 25 miles north of Da Nang to 110 miles south. The 80th General Support Group (FWD), which includes Task Force Brown and Team Hendrickson, performed logistical support for outlying units.

4. Training: During the quarter each unit conducted weekly training and submitted weekly training schedules to this headquarters. A class on maintenance of the M-16 rifle was given during this quarter and each unit assigned to this headquarters had a representative present. Several classes of familiarization firing of individual weapons were held for those personnel who were newly assigned and those who had to fire their weapons for familiarization and battle sight zeroing. The classes were conducted at Special Forces Firing Range near DSAC Compound by DSAC Security Officer.

5. Intelligence: III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) serves as the primary source for intelligence information. This is supplemented by intelligence summaries and situation reports from III MAF, US Army Support Command, Da Nang and Americal Division. Information concerning local tactical and logistical activity is obtained by command representative at III MAF daily briefings. During the reporting period continued efforts have been made to improve local physical security bunkers and guard posts. In addition, installation security and alert plans have been received and updated.

6. Logistics:

a. Supply of Classes I & III items throughout ICTZ has been uninterrupted and continues to be furnished by the Naval Support Activity with all Army requests from I Corps being processed by the 80th General Support Group Supply and Service Section. Class V items are received direct from CONUS to Da Nang via deep draft vessels and from ports in the Southern portion of RVN by shallow draft vessels.

b. The increase of troop strength within the Da Nang area and the establishing of the US Army Depot required expansion of existing facilities and the construction of new operational areas. An outside



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storage area for the Depot was constructed which consisted of 525,000 square feet of PSP hardstand. With the arrival of the 156th HEM Company and its attached CC&S detachment, an entire new operational and contentment area of 867,875 square yards had to be carved from existing sand dunes. In addition the 34th S&S Bn constructed an entire tent contentment area for its units.

7. Organization: Organizational charts are shown as inclosures.

## SECTION II

### COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. Personnel, Administration, Morale and Discipline:

##### Item: Replacement Processing.

Observation: All 1st Log Command personnel replacements entering ICTZ are processed through Da Nang and records are maintained at Da Nang. The personnel services section of the 80th GS GP was the office handling all personnel records while the 192d Finance Detachment controlled all finance actions. With the formation of the Da Nang Support Command (Prov) and the arrival of the 26th GS GP, the number of personnel to be processed increased rapidly. The 192d Finance Detachment was augmented by arrival of the 19th Finance Detachment. The mission of personnel processing was transferred to the 516th Personnel Service Company upon its arrival. A transient detachment was formed within the structure of the 80th GS GP. It arranges for transportation and temporary billeting of replacements.

Evaluation: A general support group headquarters is not structured to provide for the transportation and billeting requirements of large groups of replacements. 80th GS GP has had to rely upon the limited available mission vehicles of subordinate units when replacements are moving between the headquarters area and either the air terminal or the post facilities.

Recommendation: That a TOE or TDA unit be assigned the mission of coordinating all transient Army activities in the Da Nang area.

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2. Operations:

a. Item: Mortuary Service.

Observation: The US Army Mortuary, Da Nang in February, staffed to process 360 remains per month, received and processed 1211 remains. As a result of this enormous increase, the entire Mortuary operation was completely revised. Changes were initiated in the processing SOP. The embalming process was expanded to a 24 hour a day operation composed of a night shift and a day shift.

Evaluation: In order to handle a great influx of remains, mortuary operations can be expanded to a 24 hour operation which along with revised physical and operational structure, enables a mortuary to process increased amounts of remains in a short period of time. The use of military personnel with civilian license to meet increased staffing needs should be considered.

Recommendation: That MTDA for the US Army Mortuary, Da Nang be approved and implemented at the earliest possible date.

b. Item: Personnel Shelters.

Observation: In many instances, the use of personnel shelters creates unfavorable conditions in that they are quite often stale, dark, and confining causing decreased output by personnel. Shelters could be more readily used by more people if such conditions were eliminated.

Recommendation: Personnel shelters should be open on two sides or ends. This will allow the air to circulate more freely. In addition a small incandescent light can be installed. This will help prevent claustrophobia among troops who are new to bunkers and confined shelters.

c. Item: Well Screen.

Observation: It has been found that a well screen does not prevent sand from entering a well when it is designed for rock or gravel. Most screen available in Vietnam is designed for rock gravel use, and this allows sand to enter a well and block the flow of water, or cause the pump to fail due to sand pulled through it.

Recommendation: It has been found that window screen can be shaped around the well screen and secured before installation and then installed in the normal manner.

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15 May 1968

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3. Training: NONE
4. Intelligence: NONE
5. Logistics:

a. Item: Floating ASP.

Observation: During operations in Northern I Corps during the "Tet" offensive, it became necessary to provide resupply of ammunition from the beachhead direct to the using unit due to the closing of river channels by enemy offensive operations. An example of one such operation was the Loading Ship Dock (LSD) Cleveland, loaded with 500 short tons of ammunition and located just off the coast of Northern South Vietnam. Class V personnel were stationed on the ship to identify the ammunition and report issues back to DSAC. Helicopter sling outs were used to move ammunition from ship to forward ASP and gun positions. Another craft, LST #839 was also used in this operation.

Evaluation: With normal supply routes closed due to enemy action at Hue and the Cua Viet River leading to Dong Ha, the use of a floating ASP enabled DSAC to keep forward ASP's and artillery units resupplied with Class V, thus preventing prolonged delays and reduction in mission capabilities of Class V users.

Recommendation: Because the LSD and LST type ships have a helicopter pad and a relatively large ammunition capacity, they are ideal for Class V resupply, and it is recommended that consideration be given to their use in conjunction with helicopter transport when normal supply routes are cut off.


b. Item: Provisional Transportation Truck Company.

Observation: This headquarters has organized a provisional truck company from within the assets of all organic units. Vehicles and personnel are designated in a manner to permit rapid assembly on short notice.

Recommendation: This type unit is capable of moving supplies during an emergency situation when normal transportation means are taxed to the limit. It is not capable of or intended for sustained operation since it lacks administrative and logistics elements and derives its personnel and equipment from operating units with separate missions.

2 Incl  
as

1. Organ Chart, DSAC
2. Organ Chart, 80th GS GP (FWD)

  
8 JOHN R. PIERCE JR.  
COL, ORDC  
Commanding

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AVCA-DNG-GO-H (15 May 68) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Da Nang Sub Area Command for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1968 (RCS CSFOR-65) (R-1)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, DA NANG (PROV), APO San Francisco 96337

Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, ATTN: AVCA-GO-O, APO 96384

The Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, Da Nang Sub Area Command (80th GS Gp) has been received and is considered adequate with the following comments:

- a. Section II, Paragraph 1, Replacement Processing. This headquarters forwarded a letter on 16 May 1968 to 1st Logistical Command recommending a replacement unit be permanently assigned to this command.
- b. Section II, Paragraph 2, Mortuary Service. The mortuary has been able to accomplish its expanded workload because of a significant overstrength (approximately 100 percent) in embalmers. A Manpower Requirements Change and Section II, IV and V for a new mortuary TDA are being developed and will be submitted to 1st Logistical Command on 22 May 1968.
- c. Section II, Paragraph 2, Personnel Shelters. The standard plan which has been prepared for a 65 man shelter does indicate two entrances to the shelter. Construction of a personnel shelter is an organizational responsibility and should be corrected by the unit.
- d. Section II, Paragraph 2, Well Screen. Under normal circumstances well screening would be procured in accordance with requirements based on soil conditions. In a theater of operations this selection is not always possible. The field modification is an acceptable solution to overcome this problem.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
R.E. SLEEK  
CW2, USA  
Asst Adjutant General

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AVCA GO-O (15 May 68) 2nd Ind

2 JUN 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Da Nang Sub Area Command for Quarterly  
Period Ending 30 April 1968 (RCS CSFOR-65)(R-1)

DA, Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command, APO 96384

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,  
APO 96375

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by Headquarters,  
Da Nang Sub Area Command (80th General Support Group) for the quarterly  
period ending 30 April 1968 is forwarded.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference Section II, paragraph 1. Concur. Under separate  
cover a request for a replacement unit was forwarded to Headquarters,  
USARV on 30 May 1968. Action requested of higher headquarters is  
favorable consideration of establishment of a replacement unit for I CTZ.

b. Reference Section II, paragraph 2a. Concur. Necessary doc-  
umentation for MTDA for U. S. Army Mortuary, Da Nang has been received  
at this headquarters, Headquarters, USARV requested it be held in  
abeyance as U. S. Army Mortuary, Da Nang will be surveyed by the USARPAC  
Manpower Survey team during 3-26 July. Upon completion of survey,  
approval of MTDA by higher headquarters is desired.

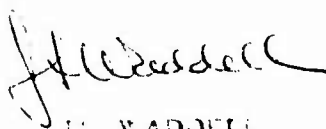
c. Reference Section II, paragraph 2c. Concur in part with re-  
commendation. The procedure described is feasible as a field expedient.  
Continued use of the window screen will result in incrustation, since  
the openings of a window screen are not tapered for self cleaning. No  
action required by higher headquarters.

d. Reference Section II, paragraph 5a. Concur. LSDs and LSTs  
are an alternate means of Class V resupply when land LOCs are closed  
and adequate helicopters are available.

3. Concur with basic report as modified by indorsements. The report  
is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

TEL: LBN 2684



J. W. WADDELL

1LT, AGC

Ass't Adjutant General

Copy Furnished  
DNG SAC  
USASUPCOM, DNG (PROV)

AVHGC-DST (15 May 68) 3d Ind

CPT Arnold/dls/LBN 4485

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Da Nang Sub Area Command for Quarterly  
Period Ending 30 April 1968 (RCS-CSFOR-65)(R-1)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

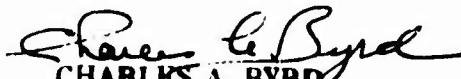
16 JUN 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,  
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, Da Nang Sub Area Command.

2. Reference item concerning replacement processing, page 6, paragraph 1; 1st Indorsement, paragraph a; and 2d Indorsement, paragraph 2a. This headquarters is currently studying the requirement to establish a replacement facility to service Army units located in I CTZ. This study will be completed on or about 30 June 1968. The unit will be informed of the results of this study subsequent to that date.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
CHARLES A. BYRD  
Major, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:  
HQ 1st Log Cmd  
HQ Da Nang SAC

GPOP-DT (15 May 68) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, Da Nang Sub Area Comd for Period  
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 27 JUN 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

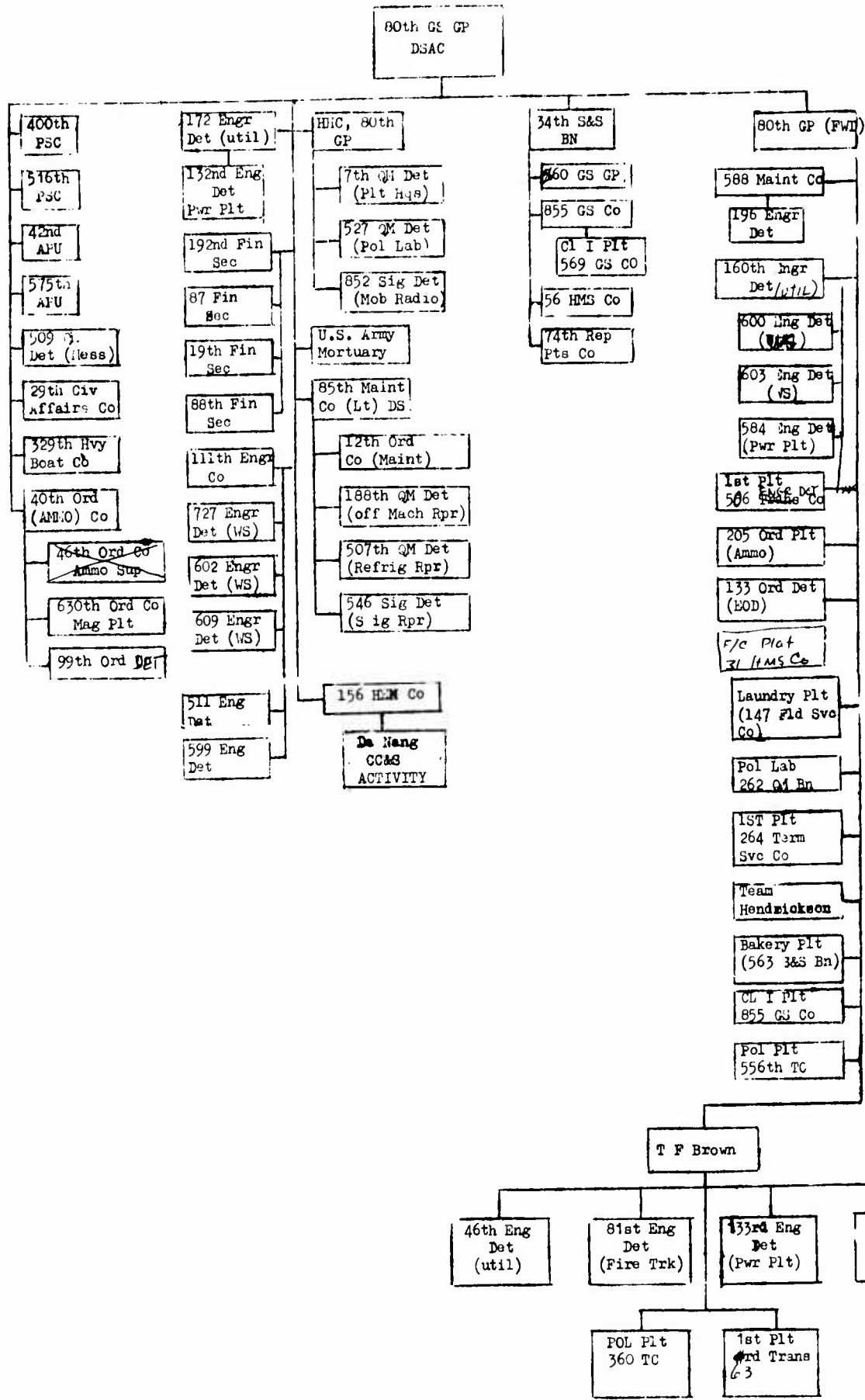
This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-  
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

*C.L. Shortt*

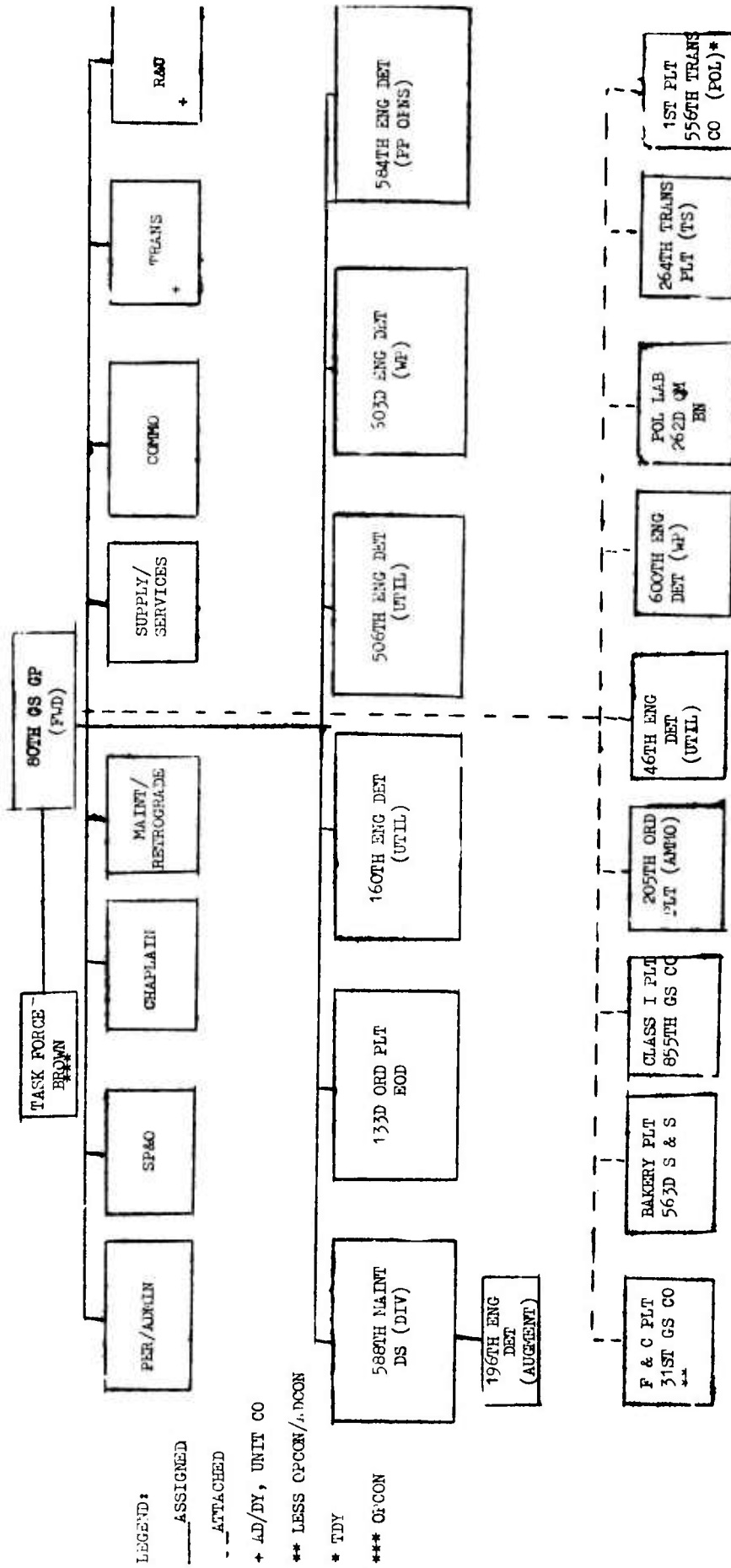
C.L. SHORTT  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

80th GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP  
DA NANG SUB AREA COMMAND





80TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP (FORWARD) ORGANIZATION  
FSA CHU LAI



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